Protection to Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar (Chamoli)

†1846. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified a number of temples of hilly areas (Uttranchal) of U.P. from archaeological view point;

(b) whether Government are formulating any schemes to protect the Gopinath temple situated at Gopeshwar, the district headquarters of Chamoli, having cracks on its walls and being fully ignored and other remnants historical importance;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, the Archaeological Survey of India has declared 42 monuments, which also include 18 temples, as of national importance in the hilly areas of U.P.

(b) to (d) The Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar in Chamoli District of U.P. is a centrally protected monument. The structural conservation of this temple has been included in the conservation programme for the current year.

Promotion of Tourism in Gujarat

1847. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample tourism potential in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government would pay more concentraiton on developing tourism industry;

(c) whether there is ambitious plan in Gujarat to promote tourism; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance proposed to be provided to develop tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government has declared tourism as an industry and the incentive policy for tourism related projects in the State is implemented by the State.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As per information furnished by the State Government, they have sanctioned Rs. 21.43 crores in 1999-2000 and have provided Rs.26.00 crores in the budget for the promotion of tourism in the State of Gujarat.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned Rs. 327.64 lakhs in 1999- 2000 for projects prioritised for Gujarat in consultation with the State Government. Projects amounting to Rs. 873.00 lakhs have been prioritised in the year 2000-2001 for development of tourism in Gujarat.

Clearance to irrigation projects in Orissa

1848. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to approve all irrigation projects of Orissa and also to give more Central assistance for lift irrigation to increase the irrigation potentiality of Orissa State; and

(b) the total number of irrigation project proposals pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Of the 20 irrigation projects received from Government of Orissa for clearnace 10 projects have already been accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The clearance of the remaining projects is linked with the compliance of observations of the various central appraising agencies by the State Government. Ministry of Water Resources has been providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIPB) since 1996-97 for completion of ongoing irrigation projects which are in advance stage of construction and the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments. However, proposals of such projects are required to be submitted by the concerned state government for inclusion under AIBP.

Rain Water Harvesting

1849. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to harvest rain water in the hilly areas so that lakes can be created; and